

C.O.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

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CLOSED
UNTIL

1976

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DECISIONS

1925

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
OFFICE
JERUSALEM

21

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILFORTY-EIGHTH MEETINGHELD AT GOVERNMENT OFFICESON THE 5TH JANUARY, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 A/Chief Secretary, Mr. S.S. Davis.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Acting Treasurer, Mr. W.J. Johnson.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

2. The proposals of the Acting Inspector General, Police and Prisons, relative to the adoption of the system in force in Egypt for the extramural employment of convicts, are considered by the Council.

His Excellency directs that, after the views of the Acting Chief Justice have been obtained, the proposals should be referred, with a recommendation, to the Secretary of State. The Attorney General to prepare a draft Ordinance giving them effect.

3. A draft Ordinance to Prevent Intimidation is placed before the Council and approved for submission to the Secretary of State.

4. The exclusion from Palestine of 'El Tabl' newspaper, on account of its offensive articles against individual Government officers, is approved.

5. The submission to the Secretary of State of a draft Ordinance to authorise the Treasurer to pay to the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt the annuities from time to time as they fall due, is approved.

6. The Council considers the proposal to make a Government loan of £.2,000, for the purchase of grain, to the inhabitants of Dura Village, Hebron district, who are heavily indebted to money lenders.

The Attorney General remarks that the indebtedness of the villagers to money lenders has already been considerably reduced by action of the District Officer, Hebron.

His Excellency, after consideration, instructs that the District Governor should be informed that no Government funds are available for the proposed loan but, in order to relieve the distress of the villagers, the collection of taxes due by them to the Government may be postponed. The District Officer, Hebron, to endeavour to induce the money lenders to provide the necessary seed for the present year on reasonable terms.

Charges
brought
by Mr. T.
Crawford.

7. The despatch from the Secretary of State transmitting particulars of charges brought by Mr. T. Crawford against certain officers of the Palestine Railways, is placed before the Council.

His Excellency directs that a letter be sent to Mr. Crawford, through the General Manager, calling for the original documents, which he alleges to have in his possession, respecting the charges in question.

Application
for the sus-
pension of Mr.
T. Crawford.

8. The Committee of the Council appointed to investigate the further charges of trading brought against Mr. Crawford, submit a further report.

His Excellency directs that the reports together with other papers be sent to the Secretary of State for a ruling, under cover of a despatch emphasising the fact that Mr. Crawford deliberately tried to mislead the Committee during his first appearance before them.

The Secretary of State to be requested to reply by telegram and Mr. Crawford to resume duty in the meanwhile.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

19.1.25

Minutes of the Executive CouncilForty Ninth MeetingHeld at the Government OfficesOn the 19th January, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 A/Chief Secretary, Mr. S.S. Davis.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Acting Treasurer, Mr. W.J. Johnson.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

Haifa Quay.

2. The question of the control of the Haifa Quay is considered by the Council.

Present:
 General Manager
 Railways.
 Director of
 Public Works.
 Director of Customs & Trade.

The General Manager expresses the opinion that all wharves and quays should be controlled by the Railways and, with regard to Haifa Quay in particular, refers to the possibility of the Hijaz Railway having legal claim to ownership.

The Director of Public Works remarks that the Palestine Government has spent approximately £.20,000 in capital works and maintenance of the Haifa Quay and submits that all constructional work should be carried out by the Department of Public Works.

The Director of Customs, without touching on the broader question of harbour control, expresses himself in favour of the Railways having control of the quay in question.

After further discussion His Excellency states that the issue before the Council does not require a decision as to the ultimate control of harbours in general and that the Council are not as yet in a position to express an opinion as to the legality or otherwise of the claim of the Hijaz Railway to the quay at Haifa. His Excellency decides that any capital expenditure on Harbours will be decided when the occasion arises; that any capital expenditure involving repairs to the structure of the present quay will be undertaken by the Director of Public Works; that the maintenance of the quay surface, railway lines, cranes and roads within the quay area, which will be defined, will be undertaken by the General Manager; and that the control and management of the quays will, as heretofore, be in the charge of the Director of Customs.

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Appointment of
Controller of
Quarries.

3. The question of the appointment of a Controller of Quarries in connection with the draft Quarries Ordinance, is placed before the Council.

Present:
Director of
Public Works.
Director of Customs & Trade.

His Excellency decides that the draft Ordinance should be simplified by placing the control of quarries under District Governors and the Administrative staff; and that regulations for the control of quarries should be drafted in consultation with the Controller of Mines and the Director of Public Works.

Bills of Exchange (Protest)
Ordinance 1924.

4. A draft list of holidays on which bills may not be protested is considered by the Council.

After discussion His Excellency directs that Accession Day and the anniversary of the capture of Jerusalem should be excluded.

Exemption from
Taxation (Charities)
Ordinance 1924.

5. Certain requests for modification of the terms of the draft Exemption from Taxation (Charities) Ordinance, 1924, are considered by the Council.

Present:
Director of Customs & Trade.

(a) With regard to the request of Consular officers for a general exemption from Customs Import duties, it is decided to recommend to the Secretary of State that the provisions in respect of the payment of Customs dues by 'Consuls de Carrière' should not take effect for a year. But this extension of time should not be granted in case of other Consuls.

(b) As regards the application for exemption from the payment of Customs dues on food and fuel by Religious and Charitable institutions, His Excellency directs that the inconsistency of certain provisions of the draft Ordinance with the pledge given in respect of such institutions by the Foreign Office to the French Government in April 1921, should be again indicated to the Secretary of State.

(c) It is decided not to recommend to the Secretary of State the applications for exemption from the payment of Municipal taxes, on premises used for Consular services, residences of 'Consuls de Carrière', hospitals and schools.

(d) It is decided to adopt the amendment as under, proposed by the Attorney General, in Section 5(3) of the draft Ordinance, dealing with the exemption from payment of werko on land of Religious, Charitable and Educational institutions, and to appoint a Committee to recommend the area of land which should be exempt from Werko in respect of buildings of the various classes of institutions.

"For the purpose of this Section a building shall be deemed to include the land on which a building stands and any land appurtenant thereto within the same enclosure proportional in area to the area covered by the buildings. The proportion shall be determined by Regulations to be made by the Treasurer with the approval of the High Commissioner".

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MINUTES READ AND CONFIRMED.

27.1.25

Herbert Samuel
HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Minutes of the Executive CouncilFiftieth MeetingHeld at the Government OfficesOn the 27th January, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

2. The sentence of death upon Mohamed Hamad Saleh is unanimously confirmed.

3. His Excellency the High Commissioner directs that, in view of the complexity of the question, a Committee should be appointed to examine the present system of committal of debtors to prison and to submit recommendations. The Committee to be composed of representatives of the Chief Justice, Attorney General, Acting Inspector General of Police and Prisons.

4. The proposals of the Director of Customs and Trade in respect of the control of fisheries are considered by the Council.

After discussion, His Excellency directs:

- (a) that the Director of Agriculture is to supply the necessary technical information and should be consulted with regard to the framing of regulations for the protection of fisheries;
- (b) the actual enforcement of the regulations is to be undertaken by the Director of Customs and Trade who will at all times give the Department of Agriculture every facility for research work;
- (c) the District Authorities to be charged with the issue of Fishing Licenses.

5. The right of the Director of Antiquities to acquire at their declared value, under Section 44(i) of the Antiquities Ordinance, a number of pieces of Roman glass imported to Palestine from Syria by Mr. Aziz Khayat who has applied for permission to re-export them to America, is considered by the Council.

Death Sentence
on Mohamed
Hamad Saleh.

Committal of
Debtors to
Prison.

Present:
A/Inspector
General, Police
and Prisons.

Control of
Fisheries.

Present:
Director of
Agriculture.

Antiquities
Imported to
Palestine.

Present:
A/Director of
Antiquities.

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With regard to the principles governing such cases, His Excellency expresses the opinion:

- (a) that the Government should have the right to acquire or, alternatively, to prohibit the export of antiquities of Palestinian origin;
- (b) that it is desirable to conclude agreements with Governments of adjacent territories with a view to the prevention of smuggling of antiquities. Antiquities found to have been smuggled to or from Palestine would then be liable to seizure and return to the territory of origin. (It is noted that the Director of Customs and Trade should, after discussion with the Director of Antiquities, raise this question in the course of his forthcoming visit to Syria);
- (c) that antiquities not of Palestinian origin imported into the country should not be liable to seizure or pre-emption by the Government.

The Attorney General dissents from the principle expressed in paragraph (c) above and states that in his opinion the Government's right of pre-emption on application to export should be absolute.

His Excellency directs that the Attorney General should submit a memorandum on the question as a whole.

As regards the particular case of Mr. Aziz Khayat, the Attorney General advises that any legal action brought by Mr. Khayat against the Government, with a view to recovering the Roman glass acquired by the Director of Antiquities, will probably fail. The Chief Secretary and Attorney General agree that Government should retain the articles in question; the Treasurer dissents for the reasons given in his previous minutes on the subject. His Excellency decides that the antiquities should be retained by the Government of Palestine.

Ports Dues.

6. His Excellency approves of the amendment in the promulgating order of the draft Ports Regulation Ordinance 1924 to provide for the retention of the rates laid down in the Ports Dues Ordinance 1921, namely, 5 milliemes per registered ton up to 500 tons; 3 milliemes on the excess of 500 tons up to 1000 tons and 2 milliemes on the excess of 1000 tons. The figures in the draft were inserted in error.

7. His Excellency directs that Mr. Rutenberg should be given the option of constructing the proposed funicular railway at Haifa on terms to be decided after consultation with the Director of Public Works. Mr. Rutenberg to have six months within which to accept.

Haifa
Funicular
Railway.

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Housing.

8. The proposals of the A/Inspector General, Police and Prisons with regard to the construction of a house for his accommodation which entail the Government undertaking a lease for a period of years, are considered by the Council.

His Excellency decides that the Government cannot authorise a lease as suggested and that the Acting Inspector General should proceed to secure accommodation in the manner indicated by the Director of Public Works, i.e., by placing himself in touch with the Jerusalem Housing Commission.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

5.2.25

Minutes of the Executive Council

Fifty-first Meeting

Held at the Government Offices

on the 5th February, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
Sir Herbert Samuel.
Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

2. The draft Unions of Local Councils Ordinance 1925 is approved in principle.

His Excellency directs that the points raised by the Treasurer in his minute dated 5/2/1925, should be discussed by him with the Chief Secretary and Attorney General.

3. His Excellency approves, for transmission to the Secretary of State, a draft despatch recommending the payment of a gratuity under Section 19 (2) of the draft Pensions Ordinance, to the next-of-kin of the late Mohammad Khalil, Palestine Railways.

4. A recommendation by the Legal Board expressing the opinion that admission to the Palestine Bar should be limited to persons who are Palestinians whether natural born or naturalized, is considered by the Council.

His Excellency directs that a letter be despatched to the Chief Justice stating that His Excellency contemplates giving a negative reply to the recommendation of the Legal Board; but before doing so, would be glad to know if the Chief Justice has any observations to offer.

5. His Excellency approves of Jalil Effendi Musa, Mudir Mal, Southern District, who is being invalided from the service on account of infirmity, being recommended to the Secretary of State for the grant of a gratuity under Section 7 (d) of the draft Pensions Ordinance.

6. His Excellency the High Commissioner decides that, in view of the probable early promulgation of the Electricity Ordinance and an Ordinance embodying the Rutenberg Concession and the complication arising out of the Mavrommatis claims in Jerusalem, it is not desirable at the present juncture to issue a Notice warning the public of the impending prohibition of the sale of

electrical/

Unions of
Local Councils
Ordinance 1925.

Gratuity to
next-of-kin
of Mohammad
Khalil.

Admission
of foreign
advocates
to the Pal-
estinian Bar.

Gratuity under
Section 7 (d)
of the draft
Pensions Ord-
inance to Jalil
Effendi Musa.

Issue of a
Notice regard-
ing the sale
of electrical
energy.

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electrical energy in accordance with the obligation under the Rutenberg Concession.

Formation
of a Law
Library.

7. The proposals of the Attorney General in respect of the formation of a Law Library to be attached to the Law Classes are placed before the Council.

After discussion, His Excellency decides that the need can be met by enlarging the present Court Library at Jerusalem and directs that the Secretary of State should again be approached and requested to sanction additional expenditure on this account.

The Attorney General is requested to draw up a statement in support of the recommendation showing a list of the books owned by the Court Library and a list of those required.

8. His Excellency approves of Government bearing the cost of the publication of the Hebrew translation of the Mejele, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Feb. 17th 1925

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILFIFTY-SECOND MEETINGHELD AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICESON THE 17th FEBRUARY, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

Customs Policy.

Present:
 Director of
 Customs, Excise
 and Trade.

2. (a) His Excellency decides that it is undesirable to exempt from import duties raw materials to be manufactured into goods for sale in Palestine, but that to afford relief in respect of goods manufactured in Palestine for export, the system of temporary admission described in the memorandum of the Board of Trade which accompanied the Secretary of State's despatch No.111 of 18th January, 1924, should be introduced as soon as possible, and the Secretary of State requested to approve, in advance, of that part of the draft Customs Code now under consideration by him which provides for the establishment of the system in Palestine.

(b) His Excellency directs Mr. Stead to prepare a statement giving particulars of the revenue derived from export duties, and proposals for the revision of the tariff by specific duties.

Municipal Courts.

3. His Excellency directs that the views of the Chief Justice be taken on this question.

Auja Con-
cession.

4. His Excellency decides that the Secretary of State be informed by telegraph that Government has no objection to an extension of six months being given to the Jaffa Electric Company of the period within which it is to produce satisfactory evidence of its ability to meet the requirements of the supply of electrical energy to Petah-Tikvah; but that, in the event of its release from the obligation to construct the hydro-electric station at the Auja, the Company should not be permitted to utilise the Auja River to generate power for irrigation purposes, or retain the right to use the Auja River for the generation of hydro-electric energy at some future date.

His Excellency also directs that the Company be urged as a condition of the release from its obligation, to agree to apply to the Jaffa District the rates for electricity payable under the Jordan Hydro-Electric Concession as soon as electricity from that source is available.

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Animal
Enumeration
Tax.

5. His Excellency decides, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, to accept the terms of the Agreement between the representatives of Syria with regard to the distribution between Syria and Palestine, in the proportion of two-thirds to one-third, of the revenue from the Animal Enumeration Tax upon Syrian flocks which graze in Palestine during the winter months, and that the terms of the Agreement be reported to the Secretary of State.

His Excellency directs that the views of the District Governor of the Northern District and of the Director of Agriculture and Forests be ascertained as to the necessity to restrict the right of grazing in Palestine to flocks from villages which had exercised the right "ab antiquo", with particular reference to

- (1) the possible undesirability of extending the privilege to an extent which might limit the area of cultivation, it being considered whether the advent of new flocks would in fact create in time anything in the nature of additional prescriptive rights of grazing;
- (11) the direct or indirect benefits derived by this country from the sojourn of the flocks.

Currency
Nomenclature.

6. His Excellency decides to accept the report of the Committee on the nomenclature of the various denominations of the proposed Palestine currency, with the following amendments:

- (a) the term "mill" to be used in English, Arabic and Hebrew for the smallest denomination; and
- (b) the term "darkon" to be used instead of "darkemon" for the Hebrew name of the coin for 25 "mills".

His Excellency further decides that no coins of 10 mills or 2 mills value should be struck at present, the need for them to be reconsidered in the light of experience when the new currency has been in use for some time; but that coins of 1 mill, 3 mills and 5 mills value should be introduced, those of 1 mill value not to be of inconveniently small size.

His Excellency directs that the report of the Committee, with the changes approved, should be referred to the Secretary of State.

Mr. T. Crawford.

7. His Excellency directs that endeavours should be made to second Mr. Crawford for service with the Postmaster General's Department, and that the Secretary of State be requested to consider the transfer of Mr. Crawford elsewhere.

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Electricity
Supply, Haifa.

8. His Excellency decides that the Palestine Electric Corporation be requested to submit forthwith the revised Jordan Concession, for transmission to the Secretary of State for approval and early validation by Ordinance, which would provide the necessary sanctions for the operations of the Corporation at Haifa and Tiberias.

Right of
Government
to acquire
Antiquities
intended for
Export.

9. His Excellency decides that, in view of the terms of the letter addressed by the District Governor of the Northern District, on the 7th January, 1925, to Aziz Effendi Khayat, of which the A/Director of Antiquities had not been aware, and which is only now brought to the notice of the Council, the antiquities which it had been decided to acquire under Section 44(1) of the Antiquities Ordinance should be unconditionally returned to Aziz Effendi, and the District Governor instructed to inform him that the statement in that letter with regard to the new draft Law of Antiquities was made without authority.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Feb 26th 1925

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILFIFTY-THIRD MEETINGHELD AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICESON THE 26th FEBRUARY, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

Standardisa-
 tion of the
 Palestine
 Dunom.
 Present:
 Sir E.Dowson.

2. After discussion it is decided to adopt Sir Ernest Dowson's recommendations for the standardisation of the Palestine dunom; and it is agreed that a general revision of the weights and measures in Palestine on the basis of the metric system, is desirable.

His Excellency the High Commissioner directs that legislation to provide for the standardisation of the dunom should not be delayed on account of the further consideration which a general revision of weights and measures will require, but that it should be prepared forthwith for submission to the Secretary of State.

Draft Workmens'
 Compensation
 Ordinance.
 Present:
 Controller
 of Permits.

3. His Excellency approves for submission to the Secretary of State the draft Workmens' Compensation Ordinance, subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) Paragraph 4. 1st Schedule. Omit the words "Agricultural, drainage, or".
- (b) Insert a clause providing that Government employees who may be entitled to compensation both under the Workmens' Compensation Ordinance and the Pensions Ordinance, may benefit by the provisions of either, but not both Ordinances.
- (c) Insert a clause nullifying, so far as this Ordinance is concerned, the effect of any contract contrary to its provisions.

Ordinance to
 prohibit the
 sale, manufac-
 ture & import-
 ation of matches
 made with white
 phosphorous.

4. His Excellency approves for submission to the Secretary of State of the draft Ordinance to prohibit the sale, manufacture and importation of matches made with white phosphorous.

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suspension of
"La Palestine"
newspaper.

5. His Excellency decides that no sufficient grounds exist for the suspension of "La Palestine" newspaper.

appeals from
convictions
by Courts of
Criminal Assize.

6. His Excellency directs that the question of appeal from a judgment given by a Court of Criminal Assize, should be referred, semi-officially for advice, to the Legal Department of the Colonial Office.

Inclusion of
Whit Monday
in list of
days on which
Bills cannot
be protested.

7. His Excellency directs that a negative reply should be returned to the representations made by certain Bank Managers in favour of the inclusion of Whit Monday in the list of days on which Bills cannot be protested.

Admission of
Women to prac-
tice for the
Palestine Bar.

8. His Excellency directs that draft legislation providing for the admission of women to the Palestine Bar should be prepared for submission to the Colonial Office.

Sharia Courts.

9. The question of the financial responsibility of the Government for expenditure on the Sharia Courts, is considered by the Council.

After discussion, His Excellency directs that the matter should be reconsidered when the proposals of the Supreme Moslem Council for improvement of the financial position of the Sharia Courts, have been received.

Tobacco
Land Tax.

10. Certain representations in favour of postponing the collection of the Land Tax on tobacco crops, are placed before the Council.

It is decided that postponement of collection is undesirable but that the Government should agree to defer payments covered by guarantees from approved Banks.

It is noted that, as the tax in question is to be abolished after the present crop, the line of action contemplated will not create a precedent.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

March 9th 1925

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Minutes of the Executive CouncilFifty-Fourth MeetingHeld at the Government OfficesOn the 9th March, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

2. His Excellency decides that, in view of the special circumstances of their case, the applicants for the concession of lease of the Wadi Farah lands should be permitted to acquire up to 6,000 dunoms of the land allotted under the Baisan Land Agreement and to enjoy the rights and be under the liabilities of a transferee under the Agreement.

3. The draft Antiquities Ordinance is passed for submission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, subject to certain minor amendments to be effected by the Attorney General.

4. His Excellency directs that the Chief Justice's proposals with respect to the appointment of paid Magistrates as Presidents of the Municipal Courts, should be referred to District Governors for their observations.

5. His Excellency decides that, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, the Government should bear the cost of the expropriation of a plot of land, the property of Ismail Bey Hussein, which was taken for the construction of the Petach Tikvah Railway.

As regards the proposal of the Colonists of Petach Tikvah for the insertion of a clause in the Supplementary Agreement providing that, when the £20,000 advanced by them has been repaid from the revenue of the line, the rates charged on the Petach Tikvah branch line shall be those in force for the general system of the Palestine Railways; it is decided to make clear in the agreement that the present special rates will cease with the termination of the Agreement on the repayment of the loan.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

March 26th 1925

Wadi Farah
Concession.
Present:
Director
of Lands.

Draft
Antiquities
Ordinance.

Administration
of Municipal
Courts.

Petach
Tikvah
Railway.

Minutes of the Executive CouncilFifty-Fifth MeetingHeld at Government OfficesOn the 13th March, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

Land Settlement
 Scheme.
 Present:
 Sir E. Dowson.

Sir Ernest Dowson outlines to the Council
 his proposals for a Land Settlement Scheme for
 Palestine which are approved in principle.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Recd 24th 1925

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILFIFTY-SIXTH MEETINGHELD AT GOVERNMENT OFFICESON THE 16th MARCH, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N. de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

Report of the
 Municipal Tax
 Committee.

1. The report of the Committee appointed by the District Governor, Jerusalem-Jaffa District to examine the possibilities of increasing the revenues of Municipalities, having regard to the lightness of the municipal rates at present imposed, is considered by the Council.

(a) It is decided that early steps should be taken to draft legislation necessary to permit of the house rate being raised to a percentage not exceeding 10% of the rental value.

(b) The proposals for the increase of slaughtering fees are approved; the Attorney General to advise whether legislation in this respect will be required.

(c) The adoption of a system of assessment by cubic metre for the fees for building permits, instead of the system now in force, is approved, subject to the principle that the rate should be designed, as far as possible, to cover the expenses of inspection and not to produce revenue.

(d) It is decided to refer the recommendations submitted for fees for registration of machinery to the Committee which is considering questions relating to factory legislation.

(d) It is considered that legislation on the subject of recovering the cost of numbering houses from the inhabitants, is unnecessary, and it is decided that the expense of house numbering should properly be borne by the Municipality.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

Recd 24. 1925

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILFIFTY-SEVENTH MEETINGHELD AT GOVERNMENT OFFICESON THE 24TH MARCH, 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the 54th, 55th and 56th meetings are read and confirmed.

2. The question of the water supply for Jerusalem during the forthcoming summer months, is considered by the Council.

Jerusalem
Water Supply.

Present:
District Governor,
Jerusalem.
Director of
Public Works.

His Excellency states that two schemes have been proposed: to transport water from Lydda by rail, or to utilise the waters of Ain Farah by means of pipe lines.

It is agreed that the project of transporting water by rail from Lydda must be adopted, if only as an interim measure for the next few months, and that the necessary preparations should be undertaken forthwith.

As regards the utilisation of Ain Farah, the Director of Public Works expresses the opinion that if carried into effect, the scheme would afford temporary relief only, and that at considerable expense; moreover, the output of the spring during the summer months has not been gauged and might, in the issue, prove totally inadequate. It would be of no assistance in solving the main problem of an adequate water supply for Jerusalem, the solution of which lay in obtaining one main supply which would not only suffice for present purposes, but also make the installation of a water-borne drainage system possible; that such a drainage system would have to be introduced at an early date, was, he thought, beyond question.

His Excellency decides with the concurrence of the Council, not to proceed with the Ain Farah scheme.

His Excellency directs the District Governor, Jerusalem-Jaffa District to consult the Municipality of Jerusalem as to the best means of obtaining some return for the water supplied through standpipes, either by charging consumers or by raising revenue by some other means.

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Criminal Law
Amendment
Ordinance.

3. The Council considers the report of the Attorney General on the draft Ordinance and approves the administrative measures to be taken by the Government of Palestine in order to comply with the obligations of the International Conventions of 1904, 1910 and 1922. Legislation will be required in order to provide for the licensing and supervision of employment agency offices which was prescribed by the Convention of 1922. It is decided that provision should be made for the matter in a revised Ordinance for the licensing of certain trades and industries.

The Council agree that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of State, only those clauses of the Ordinance which deal with the offence of procuration of women should be enacted forthwith. The other proposed amendments in the Criminal Law should be referred to a Committee.

Haifa Port.

Present:
Director of
Public Works.

4. Sir Alfred Mond's memorandum on the subject of the financing of the construction of a port at Haifa, is considered by the Council.

After discussion it is agreed to recommend to the Secretary of State that the scheme should, if possible, be financed by a Government loan.

Report of
the Transport
Committee.

5. The report of the Committee appointed to consider amendments to the Transport and Travelling Regulations is approved for transmission to the Secretary of State.

Licensing of
Advocates to
practice be-
fore the Sharia
Courts.

6. The objection of the Supreme Moslem Council to the licensing of advocates to practice before the Sharia Courts being vested in the Chief Justice, and their contention that they are the appropriate licensing authority, is considered.

His Excellency directs that the Chief Justice be asked whether he would agree to adding a representative of the Supreme Moslem Council to the Board of Legal Studies when that body is considering applications for licences to practice before Sharia Courts, and if so, to ascertain whether the Supreme Moslem Council would accept the proposal.

Charitable
Trusts Ordin-
ance 1925.

7. The draft Charitable Trusts Ordinance 1925, and covering despatch are approved for transmission to the Secretary of State.

Exemption of the
Garden Tomb from
payment of werko.

8. His Excellency approves of the exemption of the Garden Tomb property from the payment of werko on the ground that it is a religious site.

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Tobacco
Land Tax.

9. (a) The Council considers an application from the Palestine Jewish Tobacco Growers Association:

- (1) to be allowed to pay immediately 50% of the amount they owe to the Government on account of the Tobacco Land Tax;
- (ii) for an extension of the period of payment of the balance to six months from 1st March, 1925; and
- (iii) that the guarantee of the Central Co-operative Bank be accepted.

His Excellency directs that the immediate payment of 50% of the total amount due be accepted, and that a period of four months from the 1st March, 1925, be allowed for the payment of the balance, provided payment is guaranteed by the Central Co-operative Bank, with interest at the current Bank of England rate.

(b) Remissions of Tobacco Land Tax amounting to £.367.910 m/ms. , recommended by the District Governor, Northern District, in certain cases where the tobacco crop sustained heavy damages or was a total failure, are considered.

His Excellency decides with the concurrence of the Council that the Government, under existing legislation, has no powers to remit the tax in question, but, that in the special circumstances, the debtors should not be pressed for immediate payment.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

March 31st 1925

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILFIFTY EIGHTH MEETINGHELD AT GOVERNMENT OFFICESON THE 31st MARCH 1925.

Present: His Excellency the High Commissioner,
 Sir Herbert Samuel.
 Chief Secretary, Sir Gilbert Clayton.
 Attorney General, Mr. N.de M. Bentwich.
 Treasurer, Mr. S.S. Davis.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting are read and confirmed.

2. The Director of Antiquities lays before the Council a memorandum (a copy of which is attached) on the subject of Mr. Aziz Khayat's promised contribution of £.500 to the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. The matter is then adjourned.

3. His Excellency with the concurrence of the Council directs that the annual fee payable by licensed agents under the draft Customs-House Ordinance should be £.5.

4. The draft Palestine-Syrian Customs Convention is approved for transmission to the Secretary of State.

5. The draft Convention regulating the circulation of motor vehicles between Palestine and Syria is approved for transmission to the Secretary of State, subject to certain amendments in drafting to be effected in consultation with the Treasurer.

6. The Council consider a memorandum by the "Nesher" Portland Cement Company of Haifa, requesting the exemption of the payment of customs dues of the coal they import for use in the manufacture of cement. The Director of Customs, Excise and Trade urges that coal and also crude petroleum should be admitted free of duty in general.

After discussion His Excellency directs that a despatch be prepared for transmission to the Secretary of State recommending the exemption from the payment of customs dues of coal (including anthracite) and crude petroleum.

Acquisition of Roman Glass from Mr. Aziz Khayat.

Present: Director of Antiquities.

Customs House Agents Ordinance, 1925. Present: Director of Customs, Excise and Trade.

Customs Convention between Palestine & Syria. Present: Director of Customs, Excise and Trade.

Convention regulating the circulation of motor vehicles between Palestine & Syria. Present: Director of Customs, Excise and Trade.

Proposed exemption from payment of Customs Dues of coal and crude petroleum. Present: Director of Customs, Excise and Trade.

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Draft Contra-
ventions in
Municipal Areas
Ordinance.

7. The draft Contraventions in Municipal Areas Ordinance is approved for submission to the Secretary of State subject to the deletion from the schedule thereto of the Road Transport Ordinance 1921.

Road Transport
Amendment
Ordinance.

8. The draft Road Transport Amendment Ordinance, 1925, is approved for submission to the Secretary of State under cover of a despatch representing to the Secretary of State that the present is not considered an opportune moment to reduce to 50% the proportion of 75% of the receipts from the licensing of vehicles within municipal areas, now paid to Municipalities.

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Minutes read and confirmed.

Herbert Samuel

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

April 8th 1925